* To address the issue of shortage of manpower, Ministry of Power has taken 'Adopt an Industrial Training Institute (ITI)' initiative and power project developers have been asked to adopt an ITI in the vicinity of the project area to build the skilled and semi-skilled work force required for the projects.

* The monitoring mechanism has been made more robust. The Central Electricity Authority has got a nodal official associated with each on-going project who continuously monitors the progress at site through frequent visits and continuous interaction. Steps have been taken to constitute a Power Project Monitoring Panel (PPMP).

Electricity to agriculture sector

†3660. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) in how many States in the country electricity is being provided to the agriculture sector 24 hours, 18 hours and 12 hours daily;

(b) the details thereof during the last three years, including during the current session;

(c) whether there is any plan for making electricity available 24 hours to farmers for agricultural works; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) According to the information available with Central Electricity Authority, electricity was supplied by the States to the agriculture sector for 19-24 hours, 13-18 hours and 0-12 hours during 2005-06 to 2007-08 as per details given below:

Supply of Electricity to Agriculture Sector (2005-06)

Number of hours	Number of States/UTs	States
19-24	11	Chandigarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Kerala, Puducherry, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal.
13-18	4	Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Bihar
0-12	7	Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Supply of Electricity to Agriculture Sector (2006-07)

Number of hours	Number of States/UTs	States
19-24	11	Chandigarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Kerala, Puducherry, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal.
13-18	3	Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Bihar
0-12	8	Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

Supply of Electricity to Agriculture Sector (2007-08)

Number of hours	Number of States/UTs	States
19-24	10	Chandigarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Kerala, Puducherry, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal
13-18	4	Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Bihar
0-12	8	Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

Note: Figures in respect of Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and all the States of North Eastern Region are not available.

(c) and (d) Electricity is a concurrent subject under the constitution. Supply and distribution of electricity to different categories of consumers including agricultural consumers in a State/UT is within the purview of the concerned State Government/State Power Utilities. The Government of India supplements the efforts of State Governments by establishing power plants in the central sector through Central Public Sector Undertakings. The National Electricity Policy, however, envisages "Power for all by 2012".

Allocation to Punjab under APDRP

3661. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Punjab Government is entitled to receive Rs. 251 crores for 2003-04, under the Accelerated Power Development Reforms Programme (APDRP);

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) by when this amount is likely to be released to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Government of India has already released incentive of Rs. 251.94 crores as grant to the State of Punjab, being 50% of the cash loss reduction of Rs. 503.88 crores achieved during 2003-04, under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP).